

## IN THE CLAIMS

- 1       1. A display apparatus comprising:  
2           a cathode having an electron emissive material;  
3           a grid electrode positioned in proximity to the cathode, the grid electrode  
4       having a plurality of grid portions each defining a pixel site; and  
5           control circuitry for controlling each of the plurality of grid portions to  
6       independently cause an emission of electrons from the electron emissive material at  
7       each pixel site.
- 1       2. The display apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the plurality of grid  
2       portions are each electrically isolated from each other.
- 1       3. The display apparatus as recited in claim 2, wherein the plurality of grid  
2       portions are substantially coplanar with each other.
- 1       4. The display apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the plurality of grid  
2       portions further comprises a first grid portion, a second grid portion, and a third grid  
3       portion, and wherein the control circuitry is operable for activating the first, second,  
4       and third grid portions individually from each other.

1       5. The display apparatus as recited in claim 4, wherein the plurality of grid  
2       portions are substantially coplanar with each other.

1       6. The display apparatus as recited in claim 4, wherein the grid electrode  
2       comprises a grid substrate, wherein the first, second, and third grid portions are  
3       mounted on the grid substrate.

1       7. The display apparatus as recited in claim 6, wherein the first, second, and third  
2       grid portions are electrically isolated from each other.

- 1       8. A display apparatus comprising:
- 2           a cathode having an electron emissive material deposited thereon;
- 3           a grid electrode having first, second, and third grid portions; and
- 4           a first control circuit for controlling activation of the first grid portion so as to
- 5           control an emission of electrons from the electron emissive material proximate to the
- 6           first grid portion;
- 7           a second control circuit for controlling activation of the second grid portion so
- 8           as to control an emission of electrons from the electron emissive material proximate
- 9           to the second grid portion;
- 10          a third control circuit for controlling activation of the third grid portion so as
- 11          to control an emission of electrons from the electron emissive material proximate to
- 12          the third grid portion,
- 13          wherein the first, second, and third control circuits operate to control the first,
- 14          second, and third grid portions independently from each other.
- 1       9. The display apparatus as recited in claim 8, wherein the first, second, and third
- 2           control circuits are operated in a matrix-addressable manner.
- 1       10. The display apparatus as recited in claim 8, wherein the first, second, and third
- 2           grid portions are substantially coplanar.

1       11. The display apparatus as recited in claim 10, wherein the first, second, and  
2       third grid portions are electrically isolated from each other.

1       12. The display apparatus as recited in claim 8, wherein the electron emissive  
2       material is a cold cathode.

1       13. The display apparatus as recited in claim 8, wherein the electron emissive  
2       material is a hot cathode.

1       14. The display apparatus as recited in claim 8, wherein the first control circuit  
2       operates to apply a voltage to the first grid portion to cause an emission of electrons  
3       from the electron emissive material in proximity to the first grid portion, wherein the  
4       second control circuit operates to apply a voltage to the second grid portion to cause  
5       an emission of electrons from the electron emissive material in proximity to the  
6       second grid portion, wherein the third control circuit operates to apply a voltage to the  
7       third grid portion to cause an emission of electrons from the electron emissive  
8       material in proximity to the third grid portion.

1       15. A display apparatus comprising:  
2           a cathode; and  
3           a grid electrode having a plurality of individually controllable grid portions for  
4 controlling emissions of electrons from each pixel area of the cathode.

1       16. The display apparatus as recited in claim 15, wherein the grid portions are  
2           controllable in a matrix-addressable manner.

1       17. The display apparatus as recited in claim 15, wherein the grid portions are  
2           coplanar.

1       18. The display apparatus as recited in claim 16, wherein the grid portions are  
2           actively addressed.